

REMARKS

Claims 25-48 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claim 25 is currently amended, Claim 27 is canceled without prejudice, and Claims 26 and 28-48 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's granting an interview on October 3, 2007. During the interview Claims 25 and 27 were discussed in light of EP 1151717. An agreement was reached to rephrase Claim 27 and incorporate the result into Claim 25.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 25-48 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1151717 to Evertzberg (EP '717).

Independent Claim 1 recites a household appliance including a front door having an upper edge and a front cover disposed in front of the front door. Further, the present invention provides at least one optical status display device mounted on the household appliance such that the one optical status display device is a selected one of hidden in a built-in state of the household appliance and hidden when the front door is closed. The present invention also includes at least one light guide for transmitting a signal light emitted by the optical status display device, the optical status display device being located at a spacing from the upper edge of the front door, wherein the light guide is arranged so that the signal light disposed in the front cover so that the light is transmitted in the direction of the front side of the cover. By the foregoing, the present invention provides a household appliance having operational signals easily seen by an operator.

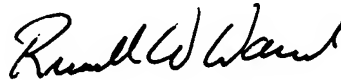
As discussed during the interview, EP '717 does not teach, disclose or suggest certain structural features of the present invention according to the currently amended claims.

For these and other reasons, EP '717 does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claim 25. Therefore, Claim 25 is allowable. Claims 26 and 28-48 all ultimately depend from Claim 25 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 25, 26 and 28-48 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell W. Warnock".

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